

## A NEW SPECIES OF *DIBAMUS* (SQUAMATA: DIBAMIDAE) FROM PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

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**ABSTRACT.** – A new species of *Dibamus* is described from Batu Gua Madu, Kelantan State, northern Peninsular Malaysia. The new species, *Dibamus booliati*, differs from its congeners in the following combination of characters: SVL to 102.7 mm; TL to 9.7 mm; TL/SVL% 9.4-13.0; postocular single; rostral suture absent; interparietal posteriorly bordered by four slightly smaller nuchal scales; supralabial one, bordering ocular ventrally; scales bordering posterior edge of infralabial after postmental three; ventrals 180-209; subcaudals 24-39; presacral vertebrae 113-120; postsacral vertebrae 11-25; and dorsum and venter brown with a pale neck band.

**KEY WORDS.** – *Dibamus booliati*, Dibamidae, systematics, new species, Batu Gua Madu, Kelantan, Peninsular Malaysia.

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dibamus* was last reviewed by Greer (1985), when it contained nine nominal species. At present, there are 15 nominal species (Darevsky, 1992; Das, 1996; Das & Lim, 2003; Honda et al., 1997; 2001; Ineich, 1999), in addition to at least two unnamed populations in West Malaysia.

*Dibamus alfredi* was described by Taylor (1962) from “Na Pradoo, Pattani, Thailand at base of Bukit Besar”. In a subsequent work, Taylor (1963: 1068) mentioned that an earlier record by Tweedie (1954) of *Dibamus novaeguineae* (Duméril & Bibron, 1839) from the limestone outcrop of Gua Madu, adjacent to the town of Gua Musang, Kelantan State, Peninsular Malaysia, might refer to this species. *Dibamus alfredi* was confirmed from extreme southern Thailand, as well as the island of Nias, off the west coast of Sumatra (Greer, 1985) and from Danum Valley in Sabah State, East Malaysia (Borneo) (Tan, 1993), leaving an apparent hiatus in the distribution of the species in Peninsular Malaysia. Denzer & Manthey (1991), while remarking that Tweedie’s material needed reevaluation, identified the specimen from Gua Madu as *D. novaeguineae*, following the concept of Smith (1935), who referred nearly all species then known to this species.

We have examined Tweedie’s material from Gua Musang, now in the collection of the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity

Research, National University of Singapore, as well as a second specimen collected recently from the same locality. As these specimens can be distinguished morphologically from other *Dibamus*, they are described and named as a new species herein.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The holotype was photographed prior to euthanasia with pentobarbital, fixed in 10% buffered formalin and subsequently transferred to 70% ethanol within seven days of collection. Scute nomenclature follows Greer (1985) and scale counts and external observations of morphology were made using an Olympus SZX9 stereo dissecting microscope. Colour notes on the holotype were taken from Fujichrome Velvia 50 ASA 35 mm slide transparency film.

The following measurements were taken with Mitutoyo™ dial calipers (to the nearest 0.1 mm): snout-vent length (SVL; from tip of snout to vent); body width (BW; greatest width of body); tail length (TL; from vent to tip of unregenerated tail); tail width (TW; measured at base of tail); head length (HL; distance between posterior edge of last supralabial and snout-tip); head width (HW; measured at angle of jaws); head depth (HD; maximum height of head, from occiput to throat); eye to nostril distance (E-N; distance between anteriormost point of eyes and nostrils); eye to snout distance (E-S;